

The WEEKLY REVEAL

Volume 02 | Issue 33

22 May - 28 May, 2023

Price : 10 INR

ASSAM'S OWN ENGLISH WEEKLY

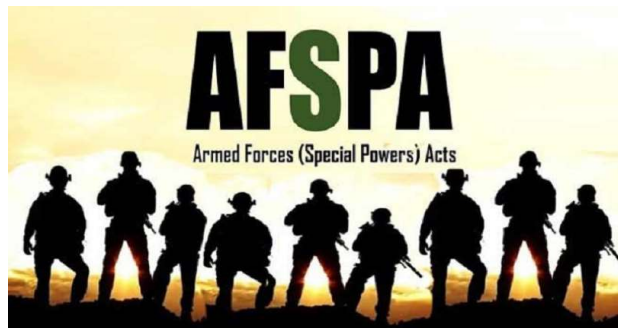
RNI No. ASSENG/2017/74029

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Assam aims to completely withdraw AFSPA by November 2023

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said that the state is aiming to withdraw the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, (AFSPA) completely from the state by the end of this year. "We will also rope in ex-military personnel to train our police force," CM Sarma tweeted. As part of the sequel undertaken to bring about police



modernization in Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday attended the first-ever conference of the commandants at the Police Training Centre in Dergaon. "AFSPA will be lifted from the entire state by

November. This will facilitate the replacement of CAPFs by Assam Police Battalions. However, the presence of CAPFs as required by law shall be in place," one

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53% of largest lakes worldwide losing water storing capacity

News Desk: More than 50 per cent of the largest lakes in the world are losing water, and the key culprits are not surprising: warming climate and unsustainable human consumption, a new study, including a researcher of Indian-origin, has stressed. The authors estimate roughly one-quarter of the world's population, two billion people, resides in the basin of a drying lake, indicating an urgent need to incorporate human consumption, climate change and sedimentation impacts into sustainable water resources management. "This is the first comprehensive assessment of trends and drivers of global lake

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ISRO's Chandrayaan 3 to launch in July



News Desk: The Indian Space Research Organisation is expected to launch the third edition of its lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3, on July 12, officials of the space agency have said. While Isro did not officially confirm the dates, a senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the project is

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Spitting in Public spaces : a growing concern

News Desk: It is found that Indians spit without the fear of being judged or the authorities penalising them because of social acceptance. On an average day, one could take a stroll around and find the railway stations, government buildings, lifts, public toilets, parks, roads and even cinema halls all spattered in red and crimson. There have been many instances reflecting the obsession of people with spitting, from Indian mothers



and grandmothers doing it to prevent 'buri nazar' to the metaphors like 'thoo-thoo karna' and 'thook kar chaatna' which are regularly used in the Indian households. Section 20 of the Factories Act, 1948 states that every factory will be provided with an adequate number of spittoons in convenient places which are to be maintained in a cleaned and hygienic condition. The State Government is vested with the power

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Mayur Hazarika from Tezpur bags 5th rank in UPSC

Tezpur: Mayur Hazarika of Assam etched his name in golden letters by bagging the 5th position in the UPSC Final results that were declared today. Mayur, a Nodal Officer employed with NHM Assam, brought laurels to his family and the home state by bagging the fifth position in what is believed to be the toughest competitive examination in the country. It is to be mentioned that Mayur is an MBBS graduate from Gauhati Medical College Hospital, had completed his school education from Sacred Heart and Don Bosco, Tezpur before passing his higher secondary from Ramanujan Junior College, Nagaon. Besides Mayur, at least three others from Assam Md Idul Ahmed bagging the 298th rank, Nivedita Das

grabbing the 848th rank while Manasjyoti Das, hailing from Namrup and currently based in Lakhimpur as an ACS officer, getting the 881st rank have also cleared the prestigious competitive examination. This year, a total number of 933 candidates have been recommended for appointment. Meanwhile, all the top four ranks have been secured by girls.



Trails of NJP-GHY new Vande Bharat Express

Guwahati: In a major development, for the first time ever, the state-of-the-art passenger train Vande Bharat Express entered Assam, starting its trial run on Jalpaiguri - Guwahati route on May 20. The train identified by its numbers Up-22227 and Down-22228 will run six days a week and travel approximately 410 kilometers in just six hours. It is anticipated that this brand-new semi-high-speed train will significantly shorten the travel time between New Jalpaiguri and Guwahati. Currently, the Rajdhani Express is the fastest train on this route, taking approximately eight and a half hours to complete the journey. Travelers can anticipate a faster and more effective mode of transportation with the Vande Bharat Express's introduction. This development comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Odisha's first Vande Bharat Express via video conferencing. During a discussion of the initiative, Union Railway Minister revealed that PM Modi has set the goal of introducing Vande Bharat Express trains in almost all states by June 2023.



Foundation laid for AJ Saikia Centre for Peace Studies at USTM

Guwahati: The University of Science & Technology Meghalaya will be intensively working on peace research and studies through a full-fledged peace studies centre, the foundation for which was laid yesterday at the University campus. The Anwar Jahanara Saikia Centre for Peace Studies was laid at USTM by Prof. Yasmin Saikia, Hardt-Nickachos Chair in Peace Studies and Prof Chad Hanes, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, Arizona State University USA. Prof Saikia has also extended support of Rs 1 crore to USTM to develop the Peace Centre. Named after the parents of Prof Yasmin



occasion was graced by USTM Chancellor Mahbubul Hoque, Vice Chancellor Prof. G.D. Sharma, Dr. N.P. Chaubey, General Secretary of the Indian Social Science Academy, apart from Deans of various Schools, HoDs of Various Departments, Directors, Senior Professors and Students. Chancellor M Hoque in his welcome address expressed his gratitude to Prof. Yasmin Saikia and her family for voluntarily sponsoring the construction of the Centre for Peace Studies at USTM.

Saikia, the Peace Centre will mainly focus on the northeastern region of India and diverse communities.

The

Kolkata CID team probing Faizan Ahmed's death case

Tinsukia: The West Bengal Criminal Investigation Department (CID) team investigating the death of Faizan Ahmed, a student of IIT-Kharagpur from Tinsukia in Assam, who was discovered dead in his hostel room on October 14 last year under mysterious circumstances, has arrived in Assam, Dibrugarh today, following an order by the Calcutta High Court. Following the court ruling, the CID team will exhume the student's body and transfer it for a second post-mortem examination. It should be noted that, while the IIT-Kharagpur authorities have labelled Faizan Ahmed's death as a suicide, Faizan's family has cried foul and alleged that he was killed. The Calcutta High Court has jurisdiction over the entire case. On April 25, the Supreme Court stated that a second post-mortem examination is "vital and necessary for determining the truth." The victim's body was buried according to Muslim traditions at the Amolapatty Kabarsthan in Dibrugarh, Assam. The corpse of the victim, Faizan Ahmed, was ordered exhumed by the Calcutta High Court.



Life

Revisited

Arup Sankar Sen

Every morning I go outdoors for a brisk walk and jog. It lasts for an hour or so. When I was young the duration was certainly more because jogging was followed by running, physical exercise, and football, my first love. Then it used to take more than one-and-a-half hours. In the middle years, the morning schedule was lessened with the compulsory mix of adda and tea with friends. But I must say that the experiences of these three different times, three ages in fact, were not very different. Only places and people have changed over the years. The sky has remained the same blue color with the occasional movement of clouds; the Sun gets up as usual without any notice, and the same full-throated devotional song is heard from an old (God knows how old) man who never stopped singing! Morning has the old freshness which pervades the air and breathing becomes enjoyable even for an asthmatic like me. And the same story of inertia to get up from bed when the alarm clock sounds! All remained so very well-known, well-coordinated, and constant. But the time looks different

when we try to measure it. During such solitary moments, I talk to so many people who come in hordes. They accompany me all along the course of my routine. Today I found Ramani Bhusan peeping through the keyhole of the mind-door. He just queried about my health, my next destination, and my possible visit to his place Moynaguri, in the jungle of Dooars. Ramani Bhusan was an extraordinary fellow. He was a chemistry teacher at a secondary school. He had two kids and a lovely young wife. I joked with him about his name. I asked him whether his name was a post-marriage creation. He replied that had it been post-marriage, he

would have had an imminent divorce. I only saw his wife's photograph kept inside the purse. She looked beautiful. His two kids were minor girls in classes two and four. They kept their mom indoors most of the time. RB took advantage of this by moving out in the jungles of Chalsa, Birpara, Madarihat, and Rajabhatkhawa with some like-minded friends during the weekends. They stayed in camps for one or two days. As a school teacher, RB could not aspire for other ambitious projects, but wanted to share the days with wild nature, and chance encounters with elephant herds. He asked me to join them and promised the closest view of jungle life. Ramani Bhusan told me the

story of Rajabhatkhawa, where the maharaja of Cooch Behar, after winning the battle with the King of Bhutan, camped there for a while and took lunch with his soldiers. Hence, the name. "Well, there are many other stories like this; his excitement was palpable when he went on saying the names like Olpokhawa, another place, which carried some unusual stories for such unlikely names! Ramani Bhusan, a storyteller par excellence, cast a spell on me. As we moved through Hasimara, the evening darkness suddenly descended around the outer world and quickly established its rights over the jungles from our prying eyes! I came to know RB while he was coming down from Alipurduar to Burdwan. My sleeper class ticket was not confirmed. But God has always been kind to the people in genuine need. He took me to one empty compartment of the express train where I managed a vacant bunk, and a window seat and exclaimed to myself, what a joy! What a relief to get such an out-of-the-world gift, the kind you only dream of if you happen to be a waitlisted passenger on a



long-distance train! At that unbelievable moment, there appeared an ordinary-looking man with an unshaven face. Very politely he asked with a hand in his side bag, "May I sit here"? He said again, "Are all these seats vacant"? "Yes, you certainly can. The whole place is yours" - I just answered as if I was the owner of the entire compartment. Then we started to talk to each other and got to know each other. RB had a dream of making it to be a civil service officer. He appeared once, failed, and never had a second chase. His family commitment put him in a tight financial situation whereby he had to take up a job as a schoolmaster. Then another big task he performed

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The WEEKLY REVEAL

EDITORIAL

Dry future

Once, a river ran through it. Now, white dust and thousands of dead fish cover the wide trench that winds amid rows of trees in France's Burgundy region in what was the Tille River in the village of Lux. From dry and cracked reservoirs in Spain to falling water levels on major arteries like the Danube, the Rhine and the Po, an unprecedented drought is afflicting nearly half of Europe. It is damaging farm economies, forcing water restrictions, causing wildfires and threatening aquatic species. There has been no significant rainfall for almost two months in the continent's western, central and southern regions. In typically rainy Britain, the government officially declared a drought across southern and central England on Friday amid one of the hottest and driest summers on record. And Europe's dry period is expected to continue in what experts say could be the worst drought in 500 years. Climate change is exacerbating conditions as hotter temperatures speed up evaporation, thirsty plants take in more moisture and reduced snowfall in the winter limits supplies of freshwater available for irrigation in the summer. Europe isn't alone in the crisis, with drought conditions also reported in East Africa, the western United States and northern Mexico. As he walked in the 15-meter (50-foot) wide riverbed in Lux, Jean-Philippe Couasné, chief technician at the local Federation for Fishing and Protection of the Aquatic Environment, listed the species of fish that had died in the Tille. In areas upstream, some trout and other freshwater species can take shelter in pools via fish ladders. But such systems aren't available everywhere. Current conditions result from long periods of dry weather caused by changes in world weather systems, said meteorologist Peter Hoffmann of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research near Berlin. A weaker or unstable jet stream can bring unusually hot air to Europe from North Africa, leading to prolonged periods of heat. U.K. farmers face running out of irrigation water and having to use winter feed for animals because of a lack of grass. The Rivers Trust charity said England's chalk streams — which allow underground springs to bubble up through the spongy layer of rock — are drying up, endangering aquatic wildlife like kingfishers and trout. Even countries like Spain and Portugal, which are used to long periods without rain, have seen major consequences. In the Spanish region of Andalucia, some avocado farmers have had to sacrifice hundreds of trees to save others from wilting as the Vinuela reservoir in Malaga province dropped to only 13% of capacity. Some European farmers are using water from the tap for their livestock when ponds and streams go dry, using up to 100 liters (26 gallons) a day per cow. In normally green Burgundy, the source of Paris' Seine River, the grass has turned yellow-brown and tractors churn up giant clouds of dust.

Letter to the EDITOR



Organ donation in NCERT curriculum

Dear editor,

It is good to know that the Union health ministry has decided to draft a curriculum titled organ donation to be incorporated in the curriculum of senior school students to make the future citizens of our nation aware of the importance of organ donation and also to sensitise them on this great humanitarian activity. The draft curriculum has been sent for expert review by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) from the health ministry and as soon as it is approved the NCERT will incorporate the chapter on organ donation. Even though our nation has the world's largest population it has the lowest number of organ donations in comparison to developing and developed nations. Experts say that it is because of certain societal stigmas, lack of awareness and some misconceived beliefs that people are not ready for this. Experts believe that if the younger population are inculcated in the right manner and proper knowledge in this matter is imparted to them at a very young age it will definitely have a positive impact as they grow up. According to medical statistics a total of 15,561 organ transplants took place in 2022. Medical reports state that every year thousands of patients register for organ transplants but most often many are put on waiting lists for life-saving organ transplants due to shortage of organs. The initiative to teach the young about the significance of organ donation is truly a step towards medical advancement and definite medical progress.

M PRADYU, Kannur

Foundation of Future

Schools and colleges are increasing day by day. In statistics, the number of degree holders is increasing everyday. But the effect of this expansion of education which should have been visible on society, is not visible in the true sense. Why is it so? For this, it will be necessary to pay attention to the interrelationships of education, students and society. There is no eye like Vidya. Humans are helpless without knowledge. Education destroys the darkness of ignorance. By spreading the light of knowledge, it paves the way for success. In this way education comes in the form of a torch in the life of man. This in the light of the torch, man can understand his good and bad. Through books and by getting the experience and knowledge of others, man can make his imagination come true. From this point of view, students are the future of a country. They are the leaders or representatives of the future generation of the country. The reins of the country are going to come in their hands. It is natural that the students of that country play an important role in the development of a country. For students to be able to play this role, it is necessary to educate them through life related education. Right personality building. It is also necessary to keep them busy in creative activities during the education period. But today it is being seen that apart from book studies, the students neither have any kind of creative engagement nor are they getting proper guidance about it. It is the responsibility of the teachers to rescue the students from this situation and make them capable of performing the expected role. They are the guides, they lay the foundation of the future. The irony is that moral decline is visible everywhere today. Teachers and students suffering from the spirit of selfishness have forgotten their ideals. There is a need to reform the education system so that students can become disciplined and prudent.

Impact of Plastic Pollution on Wildlife

Mridul Sarma

In just some decades the use of efficient and cheap material such as Plastics has reached its peak to an unsustainable situation. But the imbalance of the rate of production and disposal or recycling causes the problem of "Plastic Pollution". This is causing problems for wildlife on both land and water. One of the problems caused is plastics can entangle wildlife such as different sea birds, turtles, dolphins, etc. Entangled animals can suffer from injuries, infections, drowning, etc. It also reduces the ability of animals to swim, feed or escape predators. Another problem that arises in wildlife is due to the ingestion of plastics mistaking it for food. It can block their gastrointestinal tract, preventing them from eating. It affects the animal's ability to grow, reproduction, and survival. Plastic can release different toxins, which after accumulation can cause different complications. For example, Bisphenol A (BPA) can cause hormonal problems in different animals. Microplastics which are small plastic particles less than five millimeters can also enter into different organ systems causing inflammation and tissue damage. One of the major problems arising from plastics is the impact on habitat degradation of wildlife. Plastics can alter the natural balance of ecosystems. It also reduces the aesthetics and recreational values of natural areas, reducing their



attractiveness for conservation and tourism. Many examples of problems due to plastic pollution in wildlife can be found worldwide. One of the incidents occurred in the Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary where many Greater adjutant storks were found dead due to suspected poisoning due to the dumping of garbage and plastics. Another estimate is that around 3,00,000 whales, dolphins, and porpoises die in a year due to entanglement from discarded fishing equipment (ghost gear entanglement). Plastic Pollution is a global problem that requires urgent interventions for individuals or organizations of different levels. We can effectively mitigate this problem by reducing single-use plastics; choosing reusable alternatives and proper recycling of plastic waste. With the help of these simple steps, we can protect wildlife & the environment from the harmful effect of plastic pollution.



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Life Revisited

by marrying his heartthrob, a sweet girl of twenty-one from Banshihari, on the outskirts of Balurghat. But he found his workplace in the far-off Birpara, in the Dooars. The forests cast a spell on him. He fell in quick love with his surroundings. Hills, forests, tea gardens, occasional streams, and the winding railway tracks side-by-side the jungles, all made him infatuated with the beauty of nature of Dooars. Slowly but surely this infatuation prospered into love. RB found quite a few of his colleagues, like-minded. They started their weekly journey inside the forests which never ceased to offer them new adventures. He said to me, "Senda, the forests always hold up new promises, new possibilities, and new tastes. I queried, Can you show me the elephants?" With a big grin on his face, he said, "I promise you the same when you are coming back again. By the way, when are you coming, Sir? Please come and stay with my family at least for a week. We shall have a

terrific time together." "Yes, I do come here monthly, at least once. Normally, in the last week, I visit the place. I would come to you then. We shall certainly have a great time Ramanibabu," I told him before he got down at Burdwan Jn, in the early hours of Sunday. I never met Ramanibabu again. I did not keep my promise because my wandering life had been over sometime after we met. Suddenly in this morning chill when I talk to many people, remembering many odd faces, RB appeared with his fresh honest smile. He sent me a small sms, "When are you coming, Senda"? I wiped my face with my favorite sports shirt & smiled at myself.



(Author is a freelancer from West Bengal)



BEES ARE THE LIFELINE OF LIFE ON THE EARTH

Er. Prabhat Kishore

World Bee Day is celebrated every year on 20th May. This day is intended to generate awareness about the importance of Beekeeping activities in increasing yield of various agricultural and



horticultural products and providing income and employment support. Beekeeping activities are being carried out by farmers in rural areas under Integrated Farming System (IFS). Honeybees are one of the best pollinators which enhances the yields and quality of produce of various crops such as fruits, vegetables, pulses, oil seeds, etc. through pollination support.

They are vital for the preservation of ecological balance and biodiversity in nature. By sucking on the nectar of flowering plants, bees spread pollen to other plants and help with the fertilization process. About 85% of plants exist because of bees and one-third of all food we eat depends on pollinators. Bees pollinate nearly 70 to 100 types of crops. Beekeeping provides income and employment to the rural people by way of increasing yield of various crops along with providing honey & other beehive products, such as - beeswax, propolis, pollen, royal jelly, comb honey, bee venom, etc. which have great importance in human life. Therefore, honey bees/beekeeping is being treated as one of the most important 5th inputs for sustainable development of agriculture/horticulture. Keeping in view the importance of

beekeeping, GOI has approved a central sector scheme "National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)" (100% funded by Central Government) for overall promotion and development of scientific beekeeping in mission mode to achieve the goal of "Sweet Revolution" in the country. The Mission will have 3 sub-schemes/Mini Missions (MMs)- MM-I, MM-II, MM-III. Under MM-I, thrust will be given on production & productivity improvement of various crops through pollination assisted by adoption of scientific beekeeping. Integrated Beekeeping Development Centers (IBDC), honey testing labs, bee disease diagnostic & treatment labs, Api-therapy centers and other infrastructure will be set up. This will also include development of nucleus stock & bee breeders, Custom hiring centers, digitization/online registration & insurance, promotion of bee friendly plants/flora/bee gardens, involvement & empowerment of women etc. MM-II will concentrate on post-harvest management of beekeeping/ beehive products including collection, processing, storage, trading, branding, marketing, value addition, packaging, etc. with a thrust to requisite infrastructure facility for these



activities. MM-III will be responsible for Research & Technology generation for different Regions/States/Agro-Climate and Socio-Economic conditions. GOI has approved Rs 500 Crore for beekeeping initiatives under Atma Nirbhar Bharat programme for NBHM for 3 years (2021 to 2023). National Bee Board (NBB) has been designated as a Nodal Agency for overall development/promotion of scientific beekeeping in the country. The main theme of celebrating World Bee Day this year will be "Bee engaged in pollinator-friendly agricultural production", because saving the bees leads to saving the plants & food and ultimately life on the earth. Having usage of honey & other beehive products in daily life, their importance in human health & dependency of world agriculture/horticulture on bees as pollinators, mass-scale awareness campaigns are being organized by various departments & institutions, Beekeeping helps in prosperity of farmers, healthy people & strong nation & all citizens must give their support.

Actor Aditya Singh Rajput found dead in his apartment

Mumbai: Television actor, model and casting coordinator Aditya Singh Rajput's death has appeared as a shock to the television industry. The actor was found unconscious in his house and was rushed to the hospital where he was declared dead. According to reports, Rajput was not well for a few days and he collapsed in the bathroom of his apartment. The maid of the actor noticed it and informed the building's security guard and later he was rushed to a hospital nearby, where doctors declared

him to be dead. The official also said that they have not found anything suspicious regarding his death so far. The body has been sent for autopsy by registering it as an accidental death report (ADR). The actor used to stay with his roommate. The cause of the Rajput's death is still unknown. Many celebrities such as Suyyash Rai and Varun Sood took to social media to express their shock and grief and paid tribute to the actor. Taking it to the micro-blogging site Twitter, Varun wrote that he just heard the news of the death of Aditya Singh



Rajput. The news has shaken him. He is not in touch with anyone from MTV days except a few but he hopes that everyone is safe & healthy.

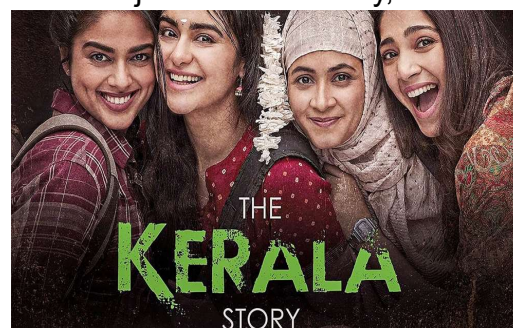
Blockbuster Film "Drishyam" to be remade in Korean



Mumbai: Indian blockbuster film Drishyam is all set to be remade in Korean language. Indian production banner Panorama Studios has announced a partnership with Anthology Studios from South Korea for the remake of the film's franchise in Korean. The studios announced the news at the India Pavilion at the present Cannes Film Festival. The decision to remake Drishyam in Korean language was taken based on the success of the film in four languages. The film was made in four Indian languages: Drishya (2014) in Kannada, Drushyam (2014) in Telugu, Papanasam (2015) in Tamil, and Drishyam (2015) in Hindi. According to the makers, the project marks the first time a Hindi film is being officially remade in Korean language. "I'm excited that the 'Drishyam' franchise is being made in Korean, a first for a Hindi film. This will not only increase its reach outside India but will also put Hindi cinema on the global map. All these years, we have been inspired by Korean fare, now they have found a muse in one of our films. What can be a bigger achievement for the Indian film fraternity," the producer said in a statement. Choi, who co-founded Anthology Studios with "Parasite" star Song Kang-ho and acclaimed director Kim Jee-woon, said he is excited about the collaboration.

EIMP chairman urges West Bengal CM for screening of 'The Kerala Story'

Mumbai: Chairman (exhibitor section), of Eastern India Motion Picture Association (EIMPA) Ratan Saha has written an open letter to the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee demanding to make arrangements for the screening of the movie 'Kerala Story' in the cinema halls of the state. Saha, who hails from Agartala, Tripura, is a businessman and owner of Rupasi Cinema Hall in Agartala as well as other theatres in West Bengal, expressed his concern for the cinema industry's survival and renovation efforts in the state. In the letter to the West Bengal CM, Saha said, "I don't understand politics at all. My identity, I am a common businessman and ex-player and Chairman of (the exhibitor section), of the Eastern India Motion Picture Association (EIMPA). I have been involved with the film industry for the past 50 years. I am trying to revive the cinema industry in your state and renovate many cinema halls because if there is no cinema hall, the film industry has no value". Similarly, The Supreme Court ordered the filmmakers to ensure that the film carries a disclaimer stating that it is a fictionalized account of events and there is no evidence to support its claim that 32,000 women in Kerala were forced to convert to Islam and join ISIS. Recently, the West Bengal government's ban on the film "The Kerala Story" was temporarily suspended.





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Spitting in Public places.....

to decide on the logistics as to how many spittoons will be provided and at what location. They hold the power to make rules regarding them as well the matters relating to their maintenance in a clean and hygienic condition. Under Rule 3 Clause (b) read with Rule 4 of The Indian Railways (Penalties for Activities Affecting Cleanliness at Railway Premises) Rules, 2012, the penalty for the prohibition of activities affecting cleanliness and hygiene in the railway premises is given. Rule 3 clause b elaborates on the activities prohibited from being done at the railway premises except for the facilities/convenience specifically provided, which include cooking, bathing, spitting, urinating, defecating, feeding animals or birds, repairing or washing vehicles, washing utensils or clothes or any other objects or keeping any type of storage near the area. As per Rule 4, the violation of Rule 3 would result in the imposition of a fine up to Rs. 500. This Act did not deal with spitting per se until there was a need for a national law to be enforced in every state as a preventive measure for combating COVID-19. The states at their level have their own local and municipal laws which are quite similar in nature with each other, against the menace of spitting in public places. Despite having legislative enactments, we have not been able to bring this menace under control. These enactments have not been effective in preventing people from indulging in the act and due to very low imposition of fines, no deterrence has been created. Spitting or littering in public places is now an offence that will attract a penalty in all urban bodies of Uttar Pradesh. Under a new campaign adopted by the urban development department, the offenders will be labelled with the title of "Mr/ Ms. Piku" & they will be liable to pay a fine.

(Contd. from page 1)

Assam aims to completely withdraw AFSPA.....

of the highlights from his speech made at the conference stated. Delivering his introductory speech, Chief Minister Sarma said that considering the important role played by the commandants and the Assam Police Battalions, the commandants; the conference will be organised every six months. The conference has been organised to help the Assam Police Battalions transform them into vibrant bodies capable of meeting their mandate. While the Disturbed Areas notification under AFSPA was removed by the Centre from the entire state of Assam last year, it was still in force in about nine districts and one sub-division of another district. However, starting April 1, 2023, the notification was lifted from one more district in the state, which meant that AFSPA was restricted to only eight districts of Assam. Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 is an act of the Parliament of India that grants special powers to the Indian Armed Forces to maintain public order in "disturbed areas". According to the Disturbed Areas Act, 1976 once declared 'disturbed', the area has to maintain status quo for a minimum of 3 months.

53% of largest lakes....

water storage variability based on an array of satellites and models," said lead author Fangfang Yao, a climate fellow at University of Virginia in the US. He was motivated to do the research by the environmental crises in some of Earth's largest water bodies, such as the drying of the Aral Sea between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. He and colleagues from the University of Colorado Boulder, Kansas State University, France, and Saudi Arabia created a technique to measure changes in water levels in nearly 2,000 of the world's biggest lakes and reservoirs, which represent 95 per cent of the total lake water storage on Earth. The team combined three decades of observations from an array of satellites with models to quantify and attribute trends in lake storage globally. Globally, freshwater lakes and reservoirs store 87 per cent of the planet's water, making them a valuable resource for both human and Earth ecosystems. Unlike rivers, lakes are not well monitored, yet they provide water for a large part of humanity — even more than rivers. The team used 250,000 lake-area snapshots captured by satellites between 1992-2020 to survey the area of 1,972 of Earth's biggest lakes. The results were staggering: 53 per cent of lakes globally experienced a decline in water storage.

Crime against women down

moving on track. "The project is right on track, and the way things are moving, the launch is expected to be on July 12," the official said. "The lunar touchdown is likely on August 23," the official said. Last week, the space agency started the assembly process for the payloads for Chandrayaan-3, in a move aimed at ensuring the July launch, senior officials from the department of space said WHEN. The payloads are being assembled at the UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) in Bangalore, from where it will be sent to the Sriharikota space port for launch. The mission will be launched on board

the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV Mk-3). "Hopefully, everything sticks according to the plan," the official cited in the first instance said. Chandrayaan-3 consists of an indigenous lander module, a propulsion module and a rover. The lander and the rover will have scientific payloads to carry out experiments on the lunar surface. The mission objectives include developing and demonstrating new technologies required for interplanetary missions. The lander will have the capability to soft land at a specified lunar site and deploy the rover, which will carry out in-situ

chemical analysis of the lunar surface during the course of its mobility. The Chandrayaan programme, also known as the Indian lunar exploration programme, is an ongoing series of outer space missions by Isro. The first moon rocket, Chandrayaan-1, was launched in 2008, and was successfully inserted into lunar orbit. Chandrayaan-2 was successfully launched and inserted into lunar orbit in 2019, but its lander "crash-landed" on the moon's surface when it deviated from its trajectory while attempting to land on September 6, 2019, due to a software glitch.

Samsung Galaxy A34 5G Review

The Samsung Galaxy A34 5G has been launched as the company's new mid-range offering in India. It packs some value-for-money hardware such as a triple-camera setup, 120Hz AMOLED display, and a design that is synonymous with the flagship Samsung Galaxy S23 series. The Samsung Galaxy A34 5G takes on the likes of the Nothing Phone, Redmi Note 12 Pro+ 5G, to name a few. With all that is on offer, should you consider buying the Samsung Galaxy A34 5G, or should you consider its alternatives? Here is our full review to help you find out. The Samsung Galaxy A34 5G has been launched in two storage options in India. The variant that we have features 128GB of storage and is priced at Rs. 30,999. There is also a 256GB storage option priced at Rs. 32,999.



Tecno Camon 20 series to launch on May 27

Tecno Camon 20 with MediaTek Helio G85 SoC was unveiled in Nigeria in the first week of May alongside the Camon 20 Pro and Camon 20 Pro 5G smartphones. Now, the brand owned by China's Transsion Holdings is all set to launch the Tecno Camon 20 series in the Indian market. The lineup is confirmed to come with photography-focused features that comprise Sensor-shift technology, RGBW Pro, and Portrait Master. The regular Tecno Camon 20 has MediaTek Helio G85 SoC under the hood, while the Camon 20 Pro 5G and Camon 20 Pro are powered by MediaTek Dimensity 8050 SoC and MediaTek Helio G99 SoC respectively. Tecno, on Monday, announced the official launch date of the Tecno Camon 20 series in India via Twitter. The photography-focused smartphones are scheduled to launch in the country on May 27. The pre-booking for smartphones has started through retail partners. However, price details and specifications of the Indian variants of the Tecno Camon 20 series smartphones are unknown at this moment.



Tata Motors launched Altroz iCNG

Tata Motors, India's leading automobile manufacturer, today launched Altroz iCNG equipped with India's first



twin-cylinder CNG technology at an introductory price of INR 7.55 lakhs (All-India, Ex-Showroom). With deep understanding of its customer's needs, Tata Motors has developed an industry-first CNG technology, the Altroz iCNG, which offers no compromise on boot space and comes with best-in-class features that ensure customers enjoy all the comfort and luxury of a premium hatchback. The Altroz iCNG comes equipped with advance features such as Voice-assisted Electric Sunroof, Wireless charger and Air purifier. After the success

of iCNG in Tiago and Tigor, the Altroz iCNG is the third CNG offering in the personal segment only. Making CNG a cool proposition for young car buyers, the Company has rolled out the OMG! It's CNG campaign to communicate the unique attributes of the Altroz iCNG. The Altroz iCNG is offered across six variants, XE, XM+, XM+(S), XZ, XZ+(S) and XZ+O(S), and is available in four colour options, Opera Blue, Downtown Red, Arcade Grey and Avenue White. It also reduces the total cost of ownership further with 3 years / 100000 km as warranty.

Asus ROG Strix Scar 18 (2023)



Asus unveiled a new fleet of ROG and TUF gaming laptops for 2023 at CES this January. The company launched the first wave of high-end gaming laptops in India in March, followed by a second wave of mid-range models in May. The laptop we're reviewing today, the ROG Strix Scar 18 (2023), is from the earlier batch. This beastly gaming laptop is priced starting at Rs. 2,79,990 in India but the variant we're reviewing has Nvidia's top-most current laptop GPU and costs Rs. 3,59,990. The Asus ROG Strix Scar 18 is gigantic and heavy & is meant to be used on a desk in your home rather than on your lap. The laptop ships with a chunky 330W AC adapter which requires 16A power outlet.



Disney's Hotstar loses 8.4 million subscribers

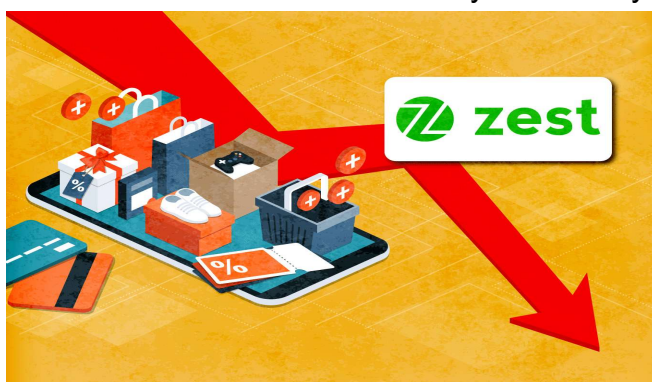
Disney, the global entertainment conglomerate operating a variety of streaming platforms, suffered a 2% contraction in its total subscriber base for the quarter ending March this year. The decline is largely attributed to one specific streaming service: Hotstar. The Disney+ Hotstar platform, catering to viewers in India and Southeast Asia, lost 4.6 million subscribers during the aforementioned quarter. This marks the second consecutive quarter witnessing a drop in the platform's subscriber count. Since October of last year, Hotstar's total subscriber loss has reached 8.4 million, per Disney's earnings reports. Hotstar, which counts India as its largest market, still has about 53 million subscribers. The issues for Disney extend beyond subscriber attrition. The company is also witnessing reduced revenue from those who maintain their subscriptions to the



streaming service. Hotstar's average revenue per subscriber fell from 74 cents to 59 cents in the quarter ending March. The Indian streaming platform, a crown jewel in Fox's portfolio to become part of Disney with the acquisition, attracted customers in part by providing live streaming of cricket matches, particularly the local IPL tournament. However, Disney was outbid for this season's IPL digital rights by Viacom18, a company backed by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries. To aggressively win customers, JioCinema is streaming this year's IPL for free in India.

ZestMoney sees founder exits, uncertain future

Two months after a deal to be acquired by Walmart-owned PhonePe fell through, all three founders of the Bangalore-based digital lending platform ZestMoney have resigned, plunging the eight-year-old company and its some 100 employees into uncertainty. "Over the last few weeks, we have done a lot of thinking, and it has been hard for us to arrive at this conclusion. We have decided to step down from our roles as CEO (Lizzie), CFO and COO (Priya), and CTO (Ashish) at ZestMoney & CEO Lizzie Chapman wrote in an email to employees Monday evening. Since March, some 130 Zest employees have moved to PhonePe, a person close to the developments said. More are expected to follow suit, the person added, requesting anonymity. Fintech, which had some 500 employees last December, is now left with some 100. Spokespeople for ZestMoney and PhonePe did not respond to emailed queries. ZestMoney was a Buy Now, Pay Later platform, which effectively permitted customers to avail of instant digital loans, which were extended by the non-banking financial company (NBFC) Nahar Credit, which Zest Money acquired in 2019. Deal talks between PhonePe and ZestMoney began in November 2022. Mint reported then that PhonePe was slated to buy ZestMoney for \$200 million-\$300 million. The acquisition of Zest would have given PhonePe access to an NBFC, which all fintechs are coveting. However, the acquisition was called off in March.



Tata starts manufacturing iPhone in Bengaluru

Tata Group has reportedly started manufacturing iPhones in India. The news comes at a time



when Wistron is gearing to wind up its iPhone manufacturing business in India. According to a report by The Times of India, Tata Group has started manufacturing Apple's iPhones at the Naraspura manufacturing facility near Bengaluru as it seeks to acquire the factory from Wistron. While both Tata Group and Wistron officials haven't commented on the matter yet, sources close to the matter told the publication that Wistron has 'firmly decided to fully exit the Apple operations' in the country. The company, however, remains open to exploring other manufacturing opportunities in the country. Furthermore, the report says that Tata Group has already assumed control of the place and some of the company's officials are already operating out of Wistron's manufacturing facility at Naraspura near Bengaluru. Officials from Tata Group have also started getting involved in various departments including HR, admin and operations at the manufacturing facility. The first-of-its-kind project is being overseen by top officials from Apple, Wistron and Tata Group chairman N Chandrasekaran.

RuPay CVV-less payments for tokenised cards

RuPay has introduced a new payment method without having to enter the three-digit CVV (Card Verification Value) at the back of the debit, credit & prepaid cards. When cardholders store their card data on a domestic e-commerce platform, they authenticate the transaction through the CVV number & Card expiry date. Now, cardholders have to perform an OTP verification (two-step verification). Then their data is tokenized & stored with the merchant. The feature launched by NPCI in association with RazorPay is available for merchants like Rapido. RuPay is collaborating with aggregators/gateways, such as PayU, CyberSource, Firstdata & Paytm.





Why Mental disorders increasing in children?



Vijay Garg

The harmful effects of the fashion that has started of handing over mobiles like rattles to children to amuse them are now coming to the fore. An international study has only confirmed these apprehensions. It has been said in the report that many types of mental disorders are emerging when children are given smartphones at an early age. The findings of this global survey were made public last Monday. mobile phones in survey findings



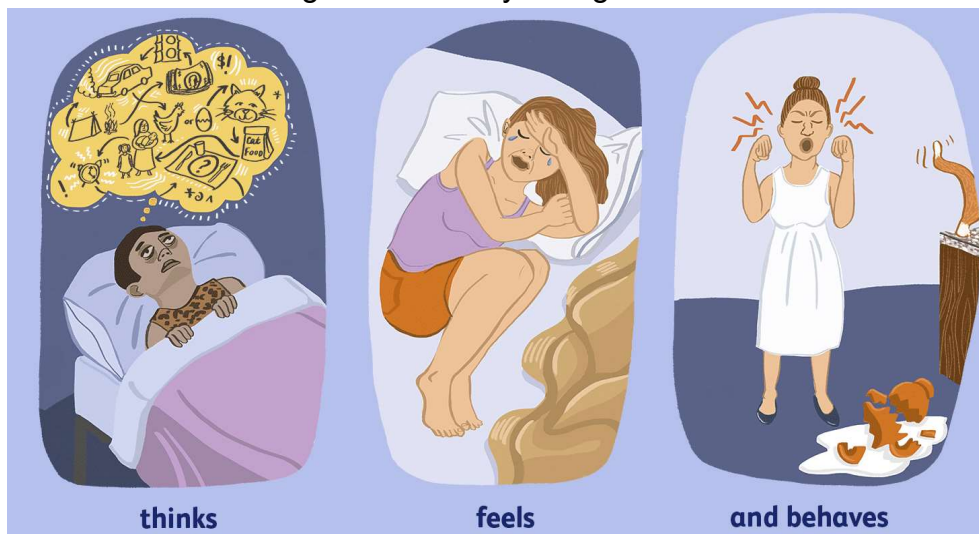
And the side effects of using Tab a r e mentioned. The sad thing is also t h a t excessive use of m o b i l e phones at a young age has seen an influx of f a t a l thoughts

like suicide in such children as adults. A tendency to deviate from their reality and aggressive behavior towards others has been seen in them. This survey was done by a non-profit organization in America on about 28 thousand adults around the world. Four thousand youths from India were also included in the survey conducted in about forty countries. involving mental health Effects were analyzed. Regarding the facts based on the findings of the survey, scientists say that giving mobile phones to children at a young age is likely to increase their adverse effects on mental health as adults. The survey revealed that 74 per cent of adult females who started using a smartphone at the age of six faced serious mental health challenges, including depression. In the same sequence, among adults who started using smartphones after ten years, These side effects were seen in 61 percent of girls and 52 percent of girls who started using before the age of fifteen. On the other hand, the percentage of girls who used smartphones at the age of 18 faced such a challenge was 46 percent. More or less similar among youths, 42 percent of those who started using smartphones at the age of six experienced mental side effects. At the same time, the percentage of those who started using smartphones from the age of 18 was 36 percent. In this

way, the relation of mobile use at an early age is directly related to mental health. A was found to be an increasing problem. That is, the use of phones at a young age has increased mental problems. Suicidal thoughts, aggression towards others, detachment from the reality of life and self-centredness apart from society have been seen in such people. And according to data released last year, the percentage of smartphone use among ten to fourteen year olds in Indian households was 83 percent, which was seven percentage points higher than the global average of usage. Well this study It is yet to be explained why early use of phones is causing mental problems and



behavioral aggression in young children and what are the possible solutions. Statistics are telling that children stay online for five to eight hours daily. No doubt children previously used this time to spend with family and friends. Obviously the process of socialization in children has been disrupted. Due to which there is a decline in their ability to adjust to social challenges and They start giving up on small challenges. Due to which there is aggression in their behavior and their mental health is disrupted. Due to this thoughts like suicide start affecting them. Undoubtedly, this is a serious challenge. Government and society should think seriously in this direction. Children need to be encouraged to participate in sports. Yoga and meditation can work as medicine in this problem. Which will help in making them mentally strong.



(Author is Ex-Principal, Columnist Malout, Punjab)



25-year-old cyclist on a mission for women's empowerment

Sports Desk: Aasha Malviya, a woman solo cyclist, on her Pan India Cycle Tour, met Mizoram Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati at the Raj Bhavan in Aizawl on Friday evening. Aasha Malviya apprised the Governor that the main aim of her Pan India Cycle Tour is to bring awareness among the citizens for ensuring the safety of women, empowerment of women and above all, to create peace and harmony among different sections

of societies in the country. The Governor thanked her for taking up such a brave mission to bring a sense of brotherhood, togetherness, peace and harmony among different sections of society at her own expense. The Governor wished her good health, success in her endeavour to attempt to cross other states and wished that the message she carried would be a blessing for the people she would meet on the next course of her journey. Aasha Malviya is a



resident of Nataram, Rajghar District, Madhya Pradesh. She started her Pan India Cycle Tour on November 1, 2022 and till now she had already visited 18 states and Mizoram is the 19th state she is visiting.

Narco test should be SC-monitored: Wrestlers

Sports Desk: Protesting wrestlers at Jantar Mantar said on Monday that they welcome Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's call of taking a narco test to prove that their allegations of sexual harassment and exploitation are false, provided that it is monitored by the Supreme Court. "It was us who had mentioned it (narco test) a long time ago, we have been saying it for long and we are ready for it," Bajrang Punia said at a press conference at Jantar Mantar. "The narco test should take place under Supreme Court monitoring, and the entire country should be able to see it live." Brij Bhushan, who is also a BJP from Kaiserganj, said on Sunday that he was ready to undergo the narco test, or any other lie-detector test, on the condition that Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia take one too. The wrestlers, protesting at Jantar Mantar demanding Brij Bhushan's arrest for nearly a month, welcomed his condition. Meanwhile, the wrestlers have also moved the magistrate court at Delhi's Rouse Avenue for a court-monitored probe out of fears that the Delhi Police will not be conducting a fair investigation. "All we want is a fair investigation. His statements under Section 164 are still pending, he is sitting 500km away and making these claims (about a narco test). We are sitting here 200m away from his house asking for justice," Bajrang said on Monday.



Manchester celebrates victory of EPL title



Sports Desk: Manchester City celebrated their Premier League title with a 1-0 win at home to Chelsea. Julian Alvarez scored the only goal of the game to give another three points to a much-changed City side that had already been confirmed as champions 24 hours earlier. Chelsea hit the post through Conor Gallagher, but misfired once again, while the absence of Joao Felix will raise a lot of questions over whether the player on loan from Atletico Madrid will play next season. Guardiola's side were confirmed as champions on Saturday without kicking a ball as Arsenal lost 1-0 away to Nottingham Forest. Taiwo Awoniyi's 19th-minute goal decided the game, meaning that Arsenal couldn't catch City in the title race, but also assuring Forest have secured their top-flight survival in their first season back in the Premier League. Newcastle United and Manchester United both need just a draw to seal their places in next season's Champions League after United won 1-0 in Bournemouth thanks to Casemiro's volley, while fifth-place Liverpool were held 1-1 at home to Aston Villa.